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Name: CAROL FELENSTEIN
Signature: Carol Felenstein
Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells LLP

Docket No. 3499-93

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: David Lawrence

RECEIVED

Filed: January 30, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2171

DEC 14 2001

Serial No: 09/772,427

Examiner: n/a

Technology Center 2100

For: AUTOMATED POLITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.102, and in accordance with section 708.02 XI the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), entitled Inventions for Countering Terrorism, applicants hereby respectfully request a Petition to Make Special for the above-identified patent application.

The above invention contributes to countering terrorism by allowing bank and non-bank financial institutions to automatically evaluate and monitor the legal, regulatory, financial, and reputational risks associated with an account held by a politically identified person, which can be critical to anti-terrorism in a timely and uniform fashion. Government and law enforcement agencies increasingly rely on "know-your-customer" diligence on the part of financial institutions in an effort to discover and interrupt terrorist activities. Current methods of researching parties related to financial accounts only quantify the financial risk associated with an account holder. As a result, legal, regulatory, and reputational risks, which may be heightened for a politically identified account holder, go unnoticed. What is needed is a method and system to timely identify, investigate, assess, and manage the levels of legal, regulatory, financial, and reputational risk associated with an account held by a politically identified person. High risk accounts that are blocked as a result of the present invention, or that are more closely monitored as a result of the present invention, will allow government and law enforcement agencies to better counter terrorist strategies and also enable financial institutions to manage risk associated with suspect accounts.

12/13/2001 BN GUYEN1 00000004 500521 09772427

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Application S/N 09/772,427

NYB 1302726.1

Petitioner presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Patent and Trademark Office (Office) determines that all of the claims are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

The following documents are enclosed in support of this Petition:

1. A copy of the above-identified application including all claims directed to a single invention.
2. A statement including a pre-examination search listing the field of search by class and subclass.
3. A copy of each reference deemed related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims of the above-identified application.
4. A detailed discussion of the references pointing out how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

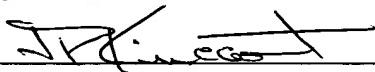
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee of \$130.00 for a Petition to Make Special as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i), or any additional fees, or to credit any overpayments in connection with this communication, to Deposit Account No. 50-0521. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed herewith.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office grant this Petition to Make Special for the above-identified application.

Date:

12/7/01

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph P. Kincart
Reg. No. 43,716

Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells LLP
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10166-0153
Telephone: (212) 878-3218

STATEMENT OF FIELD OF SEARCH

A pre-examination search for the above-identified application was conducted in Class 235/379; 235/380; 340/825.33, 705/36; 705/35.

DISCUSSION OF REFERENCES

U.S. Patent 5,177,342 ('342)

The '342 patent to Adams is entitled "Transaction Approval System," and issued on January 5, 1993. The '342 patent describes a transaction approval system for systems employing transaction cards, such as those used to make a purchase. It includes the ability to dynamically adjust such elements as the transaction limit stored in the terminal to vary the level of risk at the terminal to be closer to the desired level of risk. The terminal will also generate and store a list of account numbers which might be invalid and should provide an on-line request for authorization.

Although the '342 patent relates generally to containing financial risk through the use of an electronic system, it does not address the broader legal, regulatory and reputational risks associated with a financial account held by a politically identified person, nor does it provide an indicator of the level of risk associated with such an account.

U.S. Patent 6,078,904 ('904)

The '904 patent to Rebane is entitled "Risk Direct Asset Allocation and Risk Resolved Cap for Optimally Allocating Investment Assets in an Investment Portfolio," and issued on June 20, 2000. The '904 patent describes a computer implemented system for allocating an investor's funds wherein said system determines the risk tolerance function of the investor. The risk addressed in the '904 patent relates generally to financial risk associated with an investment and whether the financial risk is tolerable to the investor. The '904 patent does not address the broader legal, regulatory and reputational risks associated with a financial account held by a politically identified person, nor does it provide an indicator of the level of risk associated with such an account.

U.S. Patent 6,085,175 ('175)

The '175 patent to Gugel, et al. is entitled "System and Method for Determining Value at Risk of a Financial Portfolio," and issued on July 4, 2000. The '175 patent describes a system and method for analyzing financial risk data; in particular estimating value-at-risk (VAR) of a financial portfolio which includes an analysis of a distribution of sorted financial data samples to determine an accurate range of upper and lower limits of an expected value of VAR. The '175 patent does not address the broader legal, regulatory and reputational risks associated with a financial account held by a politically identified person, nor does it provide an indicator of the level of risk associated with such an account.

U.S. Patent 6,119,103 ('103)

The '103 patent to Basch, et al., entitled "Financial Risk Prediction Systems and Methods Therefor," and issued on September 12, 2000. The '103 patent describes a computer-implemented method for predicting financial risk, which includes receiving data pertaining to transactions performed on more than one financial account held by a given account holder and where each of the multiple accounts is issued by a different account issuer. The described method relates generally to scoring risk related to financial transactions by scoring of a first transaction data and a second transaction data based on a preexisting model to form a score for the account holder which is provided by the system. The '103 patent does not address the broader legal, regulatory and reputational risks associated with a financial

account held by a politically identified person, nor does it provide an indicator of the level of risk associated with such an account.

WO 01/55885 A2 ('885)

International publication date, August 2, 2001, entitled "Online sales Risk Management System", issued to Greener, et al., describes a computer-implemented method for providing risk management for online transactions. An exchange price for a foreign currency relative to a base currency is entered into a host computer which also receives data descriptive of one or more transactions involving the foreign currency that occurred within a predetermined time period. Currency is exchanged according to the entered price and the transaction amounts contained in the data. A risk exposure for the predetermined time period can be calculated. Transactions can include any quantifiable transaction such as an online sales transaction consummated over a computerized communications network. The risk exposure in the '885 patent relates to a financial risk associated with currency exchange, it does not address the broader legal, regulatory and reputational risks associated with a financial account held by a politically identified person, nor does it provide an indicator of the level of risk associated with such an account.

WO 0075836 ('836)

International publication date, December 14, 2000, entitled "Portfolio Accounting and Risk Management System", issued to Coppola, describes a method and system for managing investment portfolio risk on a computer system. Data is stored on a computer-readable medium, along with an equity value associated with a user's portfolio. A point risk value is determined for a potential investment. Risk scenarios are displayed showing proposed numbers of shares or contracts associated with the point risk value for a plurality of selected size risk values. Other risk characteristics may also be determined and displayed. The system and method may be embodied in a client/server system or in a stand-alone computer system. The risk addressed by the '836 patent is financial risk associated with potential investment. A point risk value is disclosed, but not as it relates to legal, regulatory and reputational risks associated with a financial account held by a politically identified person. Nor does the point risk value provide an indicator of the level of risk associated with such an account.

Non-Patent Literature References:

1. A website www.paynetonline.com includes references that describe an online, automated system for members to obtain reports of pooled financial information for their use in assessing risks associated with certain financial transactions. The service offered allows members to share payment history with other members. One benefit of the shared information may be the ability to better determine a credit risk associated with a potential lessor. The website does not provide for or otherwise disclose monitoring for the various types of risk, such as legal, regulatory and reputational risks associated with a financial account held by a politically identified person, nor does it disclose evaluating the level of risk associated with such an account.
2. Banasiak, Michael; "Don't Be Out-Scored by Your Competition", Credit and Financial Management Review, 2nd Quarter 2000. This reference describes the benefits to be derived from an automated credit scoring model in conjunction with a validation process implemented with a knowledge-based decision making system. Although the article relates generally to automated risk scoring, it does not disclose automated analysis and risk scoring associated with legal, regulatory and reputational risks related to a financial account held by a politically identified person.

SUMMARY

None of the above references provides for or teaches a computer-implemented method for identifying, assessing, and managing the legal, regulatory, financial, and reputational risks associated with a financial account owned by a politically identified person. In particular, none of the above references teaches generating a risk quotient based on a weighted algorithm applied to a set of legal, regulatory, financial, and reputational risk factors such as an account holder's position(s) held, historical data, and/or involvement with or exposure to surrounding world events. Similarly, it is not known to provide to regulatory bodies, law enforcement personnel, shareholders, media, or other interested parties, a log of the risk management process so to demonstrate that a financial institution is complying with its duties of risk containment.

Other aspects of the present invention that are novel include the ability to continually monitor and adjust the risk quotient associated with an account at the time of account opening and anytime thereafter. Additionally, it is unique to suggest to a financial institution actions commensurate with a risk quotient that might help the institution properly manage risk associated with a politically identified account holder.

Other embodiments of the present invention include a system and computer program for implementing the above methods.



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Technology Center 2100

**APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

TITLE: AUTOMATED POLITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT

APPLICANT: David Lawrence

"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label Number EL478577928US

Date of Deposit January 30, 2001

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J. E. PAUL
MA

AUTOMATED POLITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

This invention relates generally to a method and system for facilitating the identification, investigation, assessment and management of legal, regulatory financial and reputational risks ("risks"). In particular, the present invention relates to a computerized system and method for banks and non-bank financial institutions to manage risks associated with maintaining investment accounts for a politically identified person (PIP).

Risk associated with maintaining an investment account can include factors associated with financial risk, legal risk, regulatory risk and reputational risk. Financial risk includes factors indicative of monetary costs that the financial institution may be exposed to as a result of opening a particular account and/or transacting business with a particular client. Monetary costs can be related to fines, forfeitures, cost to defend an adverse position, or other related potential sources of expense. Regulatory risk includes factors that may cause the financial institution to be in violation of rules put forth by a regulatory agency such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Reputational risk relates to harm that a financial institution may suffer regarding its professional standing in the industry. A financial institution can suffer from being associated with a situation that may be interpreted as contrary to an image of honesty and forthrightness.

Risk associated with an account for a PIP can be greatly increased due to the nature of a position held by the PIP along with the power and knowledge associated with that position. PIPs can include an elected official, a bureaucrat, a political appointee, a World Bank Official, a military person, or other individual associated with a sovereign power or international organization. In addition, a PIP can be a person who holds a position in the private sector wherein the position is associated with politically sensitive influences. As part of due diligence associated with managing financial accounts, it is imperative for a financial institution to "Know

their Customer" including such attributes as a position held by the customer and the magnitude of risk associated with that position.

Compliance officers and other financial institution personnel typically have few resources available to assist them with the identification of present or potential risks associated with a particular investment or trading account associated with a PIP. Risk can be multifaceted and far reaching. The amount of information that needs to be considered to evaluate whether an individual is a PIP, and whether a particular PIP poses a significant risk, is substantial, if not overwhelming. A multi-agency working group drawn from the U.S. Justice and Treasury Departments and various federal agencies issued guidelines to meet the perceived threat arising from the transmission of the proceeds of foreign political corruption to U.S. financial institutions. These guidelines are designed to counsel banks, broker-dealers, and other financial institutions on their obligations with regard to funds that appear to be related to the theft of sovereign assets by foreign political leaders. The guidelines follow in the wake of embarrassing disclosures relating to the transmission of funds to U.S. financial institutions by a long list of foreign leaders including the Marcos family of the Philippines, Raul Salinas of Mexico, and General Abacha of Nigeria.

However, financial institutions do not have available a mechanism which can provide real time assistance to assess a risk factor associated with a PIP, or otherwise qualitatively manage such risk. In the event of investment problems, it is often difficult to quantify to regulatory bodies, shareholders, newspapers and/or other interested parties, the diligence exercised by the financial institution to properly identify and respond to risk factors. Absent a means to quantify good business practices and diligent efforts to contain risk, a financial institution may appear to be negligent in some respect.

While the guidelines offered by the U.S. federal government are only advisory and therefore not a law, rule or regulation, according to the guidelines, deficiencies in a financial institution's anti-money laundering controls may prompt a regulator to require that the guidance be integrated into the institutions policies and procedures.

What is needed is a method and system to assist with risk management and due diligence related to financial accounts associated with a PIP. A new method and system should anticipate offering guidance to personnel who interact with clients and help the personnel identify PIP. In addition, it should be situated to convey risk information to a compliance department and be able to demonstrate to regulators that a financial institution has met standards relating to risk containment.

SUMMARY

Accordingly, the present invention provides a risk management method and system for facilitating analysis and quantification of risk associated with politically exposed persons. An automated political risk management system maintains a database relating individuals to politically sensitive positions and world events. A rating system is used to assess risk based upon criteria such as a position held, historical data and/or interpretation of world events. The system can generate a risk quotient or other rating based upon a weighted algorithm applied to the criteria, wherein the risk quotient is indicative of risk associated with an account. The quotient can be monitored on a periodic basis, during the course of transactions, upon account opening or on demand. Actions commensurate with a risk quotient can be presented to a financial institution to help the institution properly manage risk associated with a PIP.

A log or other stored history can be created such that utilization of the system can mitigate adverse effects relating to a problematic account. Mitigation can be accomplished by demonstrating to regulatory bodies, shareholders, news media and other interested parties that corporate governance is being addressed through tangible risk management processes. An implementing institution may include, for example, a bank, a trading institution, an insurance company, a credit card issuer, a trading exchange, a government regulator or a law enforcement agency.

In another aspect, a computer system for providing risk management relating to opening accounts can include a computer server that is accessible with a network access device via a communications network and executable software stored on the server which is executable on

demand via the network access device. The software can be operative with the server to receive information relating to risk factors and formulate a risk quotient or other rating. In addition, where applicable, risk can be aggregated, such as by rating, and transferred.

The present invention includes a computer-implemented method for managing risk related to financial transactions involving a politically identified person, the method includes receiving information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction and structuring the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria. A risk quotient is calculated using the structured information. A suggested action responsive to the risk quotient or the information received can also be generated.

Typically the suggested actions will be directed towards reducing risk relating to an account associated with a politically exposed person, although actions can be directed towards law enforcement or other directives also. In one embodiment, the action can include refusing to open an account or perform a transaction. Another action may involve notifying an authority, such as the police.

The information received can be gathered electronically or manually and can include the identity of a politically identified person and the person's relationship to an account holder. The information received can also include the identity of a secrecy jurisdiction.

In another aspect, the information received can be stored, as can the risk quotient and the suggested action, and utilized to generate a diligence report. The diligence report can include information received relating to political exposure and actions taken responsive to the risk quotient.

Still another aspect can include aggregating risk quotients relating to a financial institution to assess a level of politically identified risk to which the financial institution is exposed. An average risk quotient associated with a transaction can also be calculated.

Other embodiments include a computerized system for managing risk associated with a financial account, computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, a computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream, or a method of interacting with a

network access device. Various features and embodiments are further described in the following figures, drawings and claims.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 illustrates a block diagram which can embody this invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates a network on computer systems that can embody an enhanced online sales risk management system.

Fig. 3 illustrate a flow of exemplary steps that can be executed in practicing PIP risk management.

Fig. 4 illustrates an exemplary graphical user interface useful for gathering information according to the present invention.

Fig. 5 illustrates an exemplary graphical user interface useful for presenting reports related to political exposure of a PIP.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention includes a computerized method and system for managing risk associated with financial accounts that are held by a politically identified person (PIP). A computerized system stores information in a database or other data storing structure and relates the information to individuals with political exposure resulting from sensitive positions and/or world events. A rating system is used to assess risk based upon criteria, such as, a position held, historical data and/or interpretation of world events. A risk quotient or other rating can be generated to readily indicate a level of risk associated with a PIP. The risk quotient can be based upon a weighted algorithm applied to the criteria. Compliance personnel from a financial institution, or other person, can monitor the risk quotient on demand in real time, on account opening, or on a periodic basis. Actions commensurate with a risk quotient can be presented to a financial institution to help the institution properly manage risk associated with a PIP.

Referring now to Fig. 1 a block diagram of one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. A compliance entity 101, such as a financial institution representative, a regulatory official, a security person or other person, or even a programmable robot, supplies information into a PIP system 102 for risk management. The information can be responsive to a predetermined set of questions and input with a computer input device or the information can be gathered electronically, such as through a newsfeed, database, Internet search, or other data source 106. In one embodiment, a compliance entity 101 can view questions on a graphical user interface (GUI) and in turn ask a transaction participant 107 appropriate questions during an account opening interview, or the transaction participant 107 can input the information directly into the PIP system 102.

A decision by a financial institution concerning whether to pursue a financial transaction can be dependent upon many factors. A multitude and diversity of risks related to the factors may need to be identified and evaluated. In addition, the weight and commercial implications of the factors and associated risks can be interrelated. The present invention can provide a consistent and uniform method for business, legal, compliance credit and other personnel of financial institutions to identify and assess risks associated with a transaction. A PIP system 102 allows investment activity risks to be identified, correlated and quantified by financial institutions thereby assessing legal, regulatory, financial and reputational exposure.

Financial institutions are often closely regulated. As a result financial institutions are exposed to significant risks from their obligations of compliance with the law and to prevent, detect and, at times, report potential violations of laws, regulations and industry rules ("laws"). These risks include, but are not limited to, the duty to disclose material information, and to prevent and possibly report: fraud, money laundering, foreign corrupt practices, bribery, embargoes and sanctions. Through a series of structured questions and weighting of information received as answers, financial institutions can structure a risk exposure and receive suggested responses to a specific risk scenario.

A financial institution can integrate a PIP system 102 as part of legal and regulatory oversight for various due diligence and "know your customer" obligations imposed by regulatory authorities. The PIP system 102 can facilitate detection and reporting of potential violations of

law as well as address the “suitability” of a financial transaction and/or the assessment of sophistication of a customer. Similarly, the PIP system 102 can support a financial institution's effort to meet requirements regarding the maintenance of accurate books and records relating to their financial transactions and affirmative duty to disclose material issues affecting an investor's decisions.

An institution that may implement, or make use of the present invention can include an investment bank, a merchant bank, a commercial bank, a security firm, an asset management company, a hedge fund, a mutual fund, a credit rating agency, a security exchange and bourse, an institutional or individual investor, an auditing firm, a law firm, or other institution who may be involved with financial transactions. Similarly, financial investments can include investment and merchant banking, public and private financing, commodities and a securities trading, commercial and consumer lending, asset management, rating of corporations and securities, public and private equity investment, public and private fixed income investment, listing to companies on a securities exchange and bourse, employee screening, auditing of corporate or other entities, legal opinions relating to a corporate or other entity, or other business related transactions.

A log or other stored history can be created such that utilization of the system can mitigate adverse effects relating to a problematic account. Mitigation can be accomplished by demonstrating to regulatory bodies, shareholders, news media and other interested parties that corporate governance is being addressed through tangible risk management processes. An implementing institution may include, for example, a bank, a trading institution, an insurance company, a credit card issuer, a trading exchange, a government regulator or a law enforcement agency.

Information relating to financial, legal, regulatory and/or reputational risk is received into a computer system. The computer system applies an algorithm that weights the input information and calculates a risk quotient or similar rating. The risk quotient can include a scaled numeric or alpha-numeric value.

If an account reaches or exceeds a risk quotient threshold, the system responds with a predetermined action. Actions can include, for example, generating an alert, blocking acceptance of a transaction, creating a report, notifying a compliance department, or other

appropriate response. In addition, the system can create a structured history relating to a new account that can demonstrate due diligence and proper corporate governance. Reporting can be generated from the structured history.

In the case of an automated account opening, such as for example, opening an online account, questions can be presented to the account opener by a programmable robot via a GUI. Questions can relate to a particular type of account, a particular type of client, types of investment, or other criteria. Other prompts or questions can aid a financial institution ascertain the identity of the account holder and the account's beneficial owner. If there is information indicating that a proposed account is beneficially owned by a PIP, the financial institution may not wish to open an account if it is unable to determine the identity of the PIP and his or her relationship to the account holder. The PIP system 102 can identify "secrecy jurisdictions" for the financial institution and advise a financial institution to require PIPs from such jurisdictions to provide an identification and source of wealth information. In addition, the PIP system 102 may suggest that the financial institution require a PIP to waive local law secrecy protections and aid the financial institutions in determining whether a legitimate reason exists for a secrecy request.

A secrecy jurisdiction can include any sovereign state that affords statutory, common law, or other protection to information pertinent to regulatory issues. In addition, a financial institution, a PIP system 102 provider, or other party can be allowed to add jurisdictions of concern to a list of secrecy jurisdictions.

A PIP system 102 can also assist a financial institution to obtain adequate documentation to identify the PIP and help the institution assess a PIP's business reputation. The PIP system 102 can document the PIP's purpose for opening the account and the PIP's anticipated account activity. It can also make a determination as to whether the PIP has a legitimate reason, such as legitimate business or investment activity, for wanting an account in a jurisdiction, such as the United States,

The PIP system 102 can also provide questions, historical data, world events information and other targeted information to facilitate a determination regarding a PIP's sources of wealth and of the particular funds involved with an account or transaction in consideration. In addition,

the PIP system 102 can measure account activity against a PIP's official salary and other sources of wealth and report on discrepancies.

Questions or prompts proffered by the PIP system 102 can also depend from previous answers. Information received in response to the questions can be input into the PIP system 102 from which it can be utilized for real time PIP risk assessment and generation of a PIP risk quotient 103.

The PIP risk assessment and PIP risk quotient 103 can subsequently be made available by the PIP system 102 to a compliance entity 101. In one embodiment, the PIP risk quotient can be made available in real time. A real time assessment can allow the PIP system 102 to provide a suggested action which can be taken to address a particular risk quotient. The PIP system 102 can also take into consideration the input information in order to generate a suggested action. A suggested action may include, for example, limiting the scope of transactions entered into, discontinuing any transactions with affected participants, notifying authorities, or other appropriate actions.

The PIP system 102 can quantify risk due diligence 104 by capturing and storing a record of the information received and actions taken relating to a PIP account. Once quantified, the due diligence data can be utilized for presentation to regulatory bodies, shareholders, news media and/or other interested parties to mitigate adverse effects relating to a problematic account. The data can demonstrate that corporate governance is being addressed through tangible risk management processes.

The PIP system 102 can also aggregate risk quotients 105 to assess the level of PIP risk being tolerated by the institution. Other calculations, such as, for example, the sum, mean, average, or other calculation can be made by the PIP system 102 to further analyze PIP risk at a financial institution. If desired, a rating can be applied to an institution according to the amount for PIP risk tolerated by the institution.

Referring now to Fig. 2, a network diagram illustrating one embodiment of the present invention is shown. An automated PIP system can include a computerized PIP system 210 accessible via a distributed network 201 such as the Internet, or a private network. A client 220-222, regulatory entity 226, compliance entity 223, account opening personnel 224, corporate

compliance personnel 228 or other party interested in PIP risk management, can use a computerized system or network access device 204-208 to receive, input, transmit or view information processed in the PIP system 210. A protocol, such as the transmission control protocol internet protocol (TCP/IP) can be utilized to provide consistency and reliability.

Each network access device can include a processor, memory and a user input device, such as a keyboard and/or mouse, and a user output device, such as a display screen and/or printer. The network access devices 204-208 can communicate with the PIP system 210 to access data stored at the PIP system 210. The network access device 204-208 may interact with the PIP system 210 as if the PIP system 210 was a single entity in the network 200. However, the PIP system 210 may include multiple processing and database sub-systems, such as cooperative or redundant processing and/or database servers, that can be geographically dispersed throughout the network 201. In some implementations, groups of network access devices 204-208 may communicate with PIP system 210 through a local area network.

The PIP system 210 includes one or more databases 202 storing data relating to PIP risk management. The PIP system 210 may interact with and/or gather data from a client 220-222, compliance entity 223, account opening personnel 224, regulatory entity 226, corporate compliance personnel 228, or other person who is operating a network access device 204-208. Data gathered from an operator may be structured according to risk criteria and utilized to calculate a PIP risk quotient.

Typically a user will access the PIP system 210 using client software executed at a network access device 204-208. The client software may include a generic hypertext markup language (HTML) browser, such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer, (a “WEB browser”). The client software may also be a proprietary browser, and/or other host access software. In some cases, an executable program, such as a Java™ program, may be downloaded from the PIP system 210 to the client computer and executed at the client network access device or computer as part of the PIP system software. Other implementations include proprietary software installed from a computer readable medium, such as a CD ROM. The invention may therefore be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, computer hardware, firmware, software, or in combinations of the above. Apparatus of the invention may be

implemented in a computer program product tangibly embodied in a machine-readable storage device for execution by a programmable processor; and method steps of the invention may be performed by a programmable processor executing a program of instructions to perform functions of the invention by operating on input data and generating output.

Referring now to Fig. 3, managing risk associated with financial transactions with political exposure can begin with opening a dialogue with an PIP system 310. Typically, the dialogue would be opened by presenting a GUI to a network access device accessible by a person or an electronic feed that will enter information relating to the account holder. The GUI will be capable of accepting data input via a network access device. An example of a GUI would include a series of questions relating to a client holding an account. Alternatively, information can be received directly into fields of a database, such as from a commercial data source. Questions can be fielded during a transaction, while updating account information, during an account opening interview, or at any other opportunity to gather information.

Alternatively, a dialogue can also be opened with a source of electronic data such as an external database, messaging system, news feed, government agency, or other automated data provider. In either case, the dialogue will enable the PIP system 102 to receive data relating to an account holder who may be politically exposed 311. Information can be received on an ongoing basis such that if new events occur in the world which affect the political exposure of an account holder, the PIP risk can be adjusted accordingly. In addition to the types of information listed previously that be indicative of high risk, the financial institution or compliance entity can receive information that relates to requests to involve a financial institution that is not accustomed to foreign account activity; requests for secrecy or exceptions to Bank Secrecy Act requirements, routing through a secrecy jurisdiction, or missing wire transfer information; unusual and unexplained fund or transaction activity, such as fund flow through several jurisdictions or financial institutions, use of a government-owned bank, excessive funds or wire transfers, rapid increase or decrease of funds or asset value not attributable to the market value of investments, high value deposits or withdrawals, wires of the same amount of funds into and out of the account, and frequent zeroing of account balance; and large currency or bearer transactions, or structuring of transactions below reporting thresholds. Other information can

include activities the PIP is involved in, associates of the PIP, governmental changes, or other related events.

Sources of information can include, for example, publications issued by Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), the State Department, the CIA, the General Accounting Office, Congress, the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF"), various international financial institutions (such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund), the United Nations, other government and non-government organizations, internet websites, news feeds, commercial databases, or other information sources.

The PIP system 210 can structure the information received according to defined PIP risk quotient criteria 312. For example, information received can be associated with criteria including a position held by the account holder, the country in which the position is held, how long the position has been held, the strength of the position, the veracity of previous dealings with persons from that country, the propensity of people in similar positions to execute unlawful or unethical transactions, the type of account or other criteria.

Types of accounts to be opened may include, for example: an individual account, a public company domiciled in a G-7 country or Hong Kong, a public company not domiciled in a G-7 country or Hong Kong, a corporate account regulated by a G-7 agency or a corporate account regulated by a non G-7 government agency, a private company or partnership, a holding company, an intermediary managed account such as a money manager or hedge fund, a trust or foundation, or other type of legal entity.

The PIP system 210 can receive the information and structure it according to predefined criteria or receive it in a pre-structured format. Receiving the information in a pre-structured format allows the PIP system 210 to proceed with calculating a risk quotient 313 without having to further structure the information. Information that cannot be easily structured can also be received and archived in order to facilitate a manual qualitative evaluation.

A PIP risk quotient can be calculated 313 by weighting the information received according to its importance in determining the likelihood of illegal or unethical dealings. Calculating a PIP risk quotient can be accomplished by assigning a numerical value to each field

of information, wherein the numerical value is representative of the risk associated with a particular piece of information. For example, it may be determined one case that a government official from a G-7 country trading equities in a public company from a G-7 country poses minimal risk. Therefore this information from the first case is assigned a low numerical value, or even a negative numerical value. In a second case, a high ranking government official from an unstable third world country transacting in a corporate holding company may be viewed as indicative of a high risk. In another case, information conveying this high risk may be assigned a high numerical value. In addition, a weight can be assigned to a PIP risk category to which the information is assigned. Therefore a designated country may receive a higher weight than the position held, or vice versa. A Risk Quotient can be calculated by multiplying a weighted numerical value of the specific information times the category weighting.

For example, information received may indicate an account holder is a high ranking finance official from a G7 country. The ownership structure of a company the account holder wishes to transact is a public entity. A public entity may receive a numerical value of -5 because it is a relatively low risk ownership structure. In addition, this information may be included in a Company Profile category, wherein the Company Profile is assigned a category weighting of 3. Therefore, the net score for this ownership structure is -5 times 3 or -15. Similarly the account holder being a high ranking official from a G-7 country may also receive a low number such as 1. The PIP risk quotient for the account holder would be 1 times 3, or 3. All scores within the Company Profile can be summed to calculate a PIP risk quotient. In this case the PIP risk quotient is $-15 + 3$ which equals -12, indicating a low risk. Weighted risk scores from all associated categories can be summed to calculate a total Risk Quotient.

A suggested action can be generated that is responsive to the Risk Quotient 314. For example, in response to a high risk score a suggested action may be to not proceed with a transaction, or even to notify an authority. In response to a low risk score, the PIP system 210 may respond by completing transactions as usual. Intermediate scores may respond by suggesting that additional information be gathered, that transactions for this account be monitored, or other interim measures.

The PIP system 210 can also store, or otherwise archive PIP data and proceedings. For example the PIP system 210 can store information received, a Risk Quotient generated, and also the suggested actions to be taken 315. This information can be useful to quantify corporate governance and diligent efforts to address high risk situations. Accordingly, reports quantifying PIP risk management procedures, executed due diligence, corporate governance or other matters can be generated 316.

Referring now to Fig. 4, an exemplary GUI for receiving information related to PIP risk management is illustrated 400. The GUI can include areas prompting for information, such as in the form of a key word or a question 413. Areas can also be included for an appropriate response 414. The area for an appropriate response 414 can, for example, receive text, allow a selection from choices proffered, or otherwise receive data into the computerized PIP system 102. A programmable user interactive device, such as a checkbox, X field, yes/no field or other device can be utilized to indicate an answer, or otherwise input information. A category weighting 410 can also be indicated on the GUI. Typically the weighting will be predetermined. However, if desired the weighting can be modified by a user such that a weighting value, such as a numerical value, will be utilized to calculate a risk quotient. The receiving information GUI 400 can also include areas for displaying a response value 411 and a response score for the inquiry 412.

Referring now to Fig. 5, an exemplary GUI for presenting reports or suggested actions related to PIP risk management is illustrated 500. The GUI for presenting reports 500 can include geographic areas of a user interface containing risk management procedures 501, including those procedures specifically followed in relation to a particular PIP. Other areas can include a list of electronic or hardcopy reports available concerning risk management efforts undertaken 502. Another area can include a list of risk quotients and./or calculations concerning the risk quotient, such as the average risk quotient for the financial institution, or the mean risk quotient 503. Still another area can contain information descriptive of a particular account holder or PIP 504.

A number of embodiments of the present invention have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, network access devices 204-208 can comprise a

personal computer executing an operating system such as Microsoft Windows™, Unix™, or Apple Mac OS™, as well as software applications, such as a JAVA program or a web browser. network access devices 204-208 can also be a terminal device, a palm-type computer, mobile WEB access device, a TV WEB browser or other device that can adhere to a point-to-point or network communication protocol such as the Internet protocol. Computers and network access devices can include a processor, RAM and/or ROM memory, a display capability, an input device and hard disk or other relatively permanent storage. Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for managing risk related to financial transactions involving a politically identified person, the method comprising:
receiving information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;
structuring the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria;
and
calculating a risk quotient using the structured information.
2. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of generating a suggested action responsive to the risk quotient.
3. The method of claim 2 additionally comprising the steps of:
storing the information received, the risk quotient and the suggested action; and
generating a diligence report.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the diligence report comprises information received relating to political exposure and actions taken responsive to the risk quotient.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action is additionally responsive to the information received.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested actions are directed towards reducing risk related to an account associated with a politically exposed person.
7. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises refusing to perform a transaction.
8. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises blocking acceptance of an account.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the suggested action comprises notifying an authority.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises the identity of a politically identified person and the person's relationship to an account holder.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises the identity of a secrecy jurisdiction.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received is gathered electronically.
13. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of aggregating risk quotients relating to a financial institution to assess a level of politically identified risk to which the financial institution is exposed.
14. The method of claim 13 additionally comprising the step of calculating an average risk quotient associated with a transaction.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein the financial transaction comprises opening a financial account.
16. A computerized system for managing risk associated with a financial account, the system comprising:
a computer server accessible with a network access device via a communications network; and
executable software stored on the server and executable on demand, the software operative with the server to cause the system to:
receive information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;
structure the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria;
and
calculate a risk quotient using the structured information.
17. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the information is received via an electronic feed.
18. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a personal computer.
19. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a wireless handheld device.
20. Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code comprising instructions for causing the computer to:
receive information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;

structure the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria;

and

calculate a risk quotient using the structured information.

21. A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream comprising data relating to risk management, wherein the computer data signal is generated by a method comprising the steps of:

receiving information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;

structuring the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria; and

calculating a risk quotient using the structured information.

22. A method of interacting with a network access device so as to manage risk relating to political exposure associated with a financial transaction, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating interaction with a host computer on a communications network;

inputting information relating to a person associated with an account holder via a graphical user interface; and

and receiving a risk quotient indicative of a level of risk associated with the person associated with the account holder.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the risk quotient is a numerical value.

ABSTRACT

A risk management method and system for facilitating analysis and quantification of risk associated with politically exposed persons is disclosed. A computerized political risk management system maintains a database relating individuals to politically sensitive positions and world events. A rating system is used to assess risk based upon criteria such as a position held, historical data and/or interpretation of world events. The system can generate a risk quotient or other rating based upon a weighted algorithm applied to the criteria. The risk quotient is indicative of risk associated with an account. Actions commensurate with a risk quotient can be presented to an institution to help the institution properly manage risk associated with a politically exposed person. A log or other stored history can be created such that utilization of the system can mitigate adverse effects relating to a problematic account. Mitigation can be accomplished by demonstrating to regulatory bodies, shareholders, news media and other interested parties that corporate governance is being addressed through tangible risk management processes.

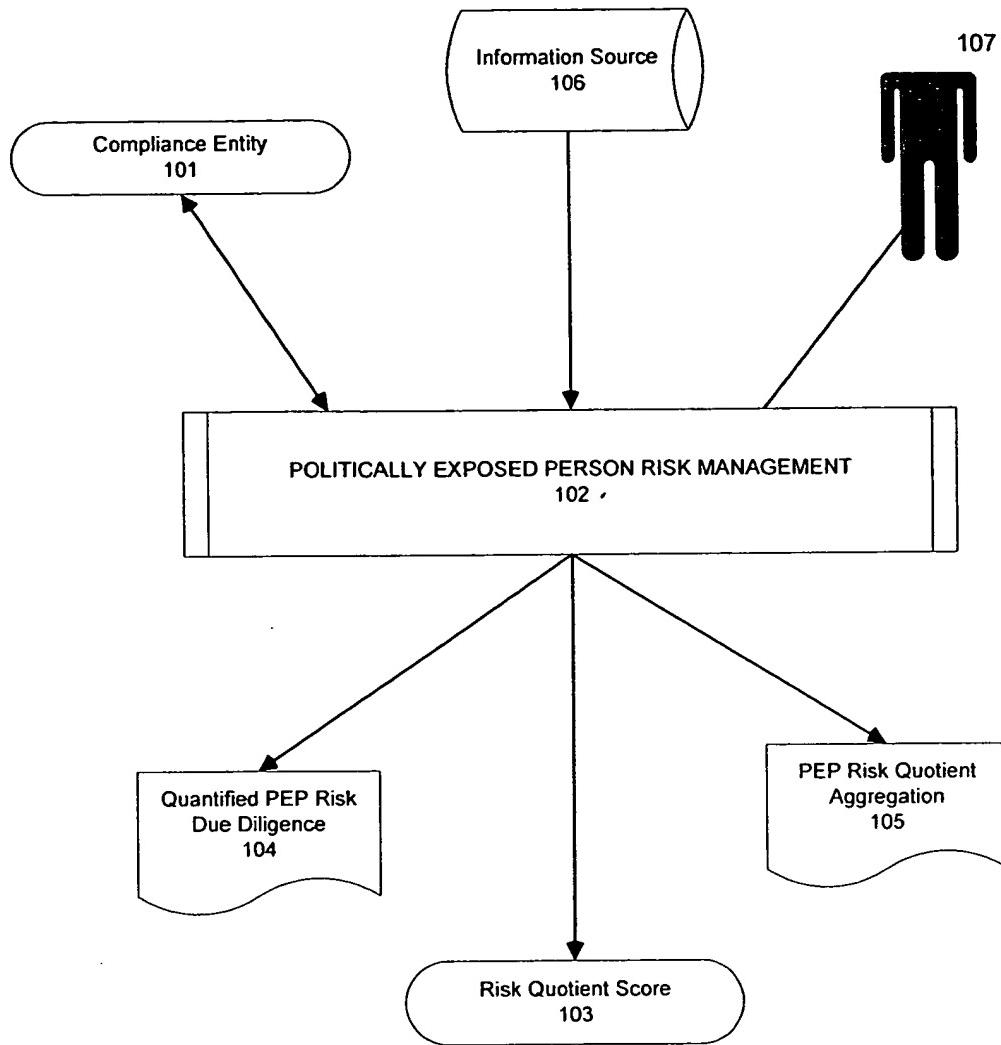


Fig. 1

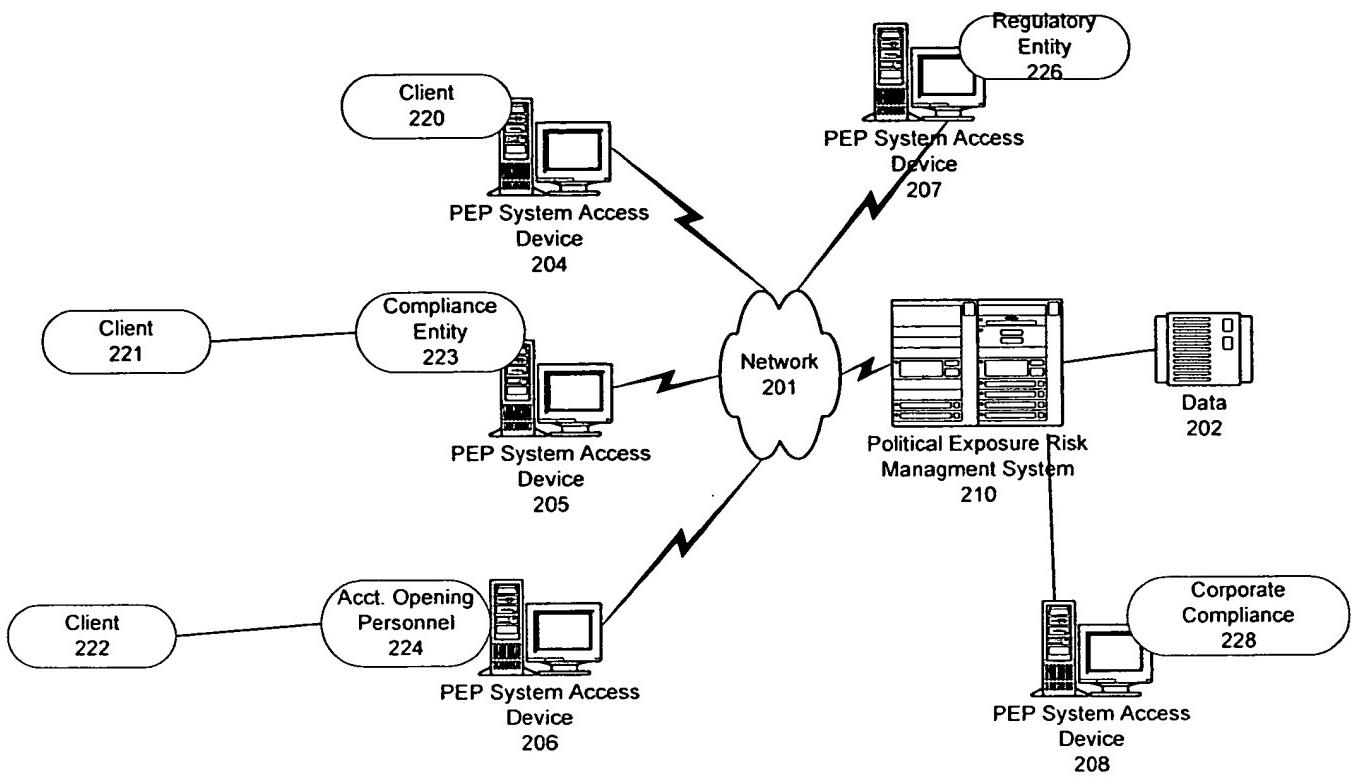


Fig. 2

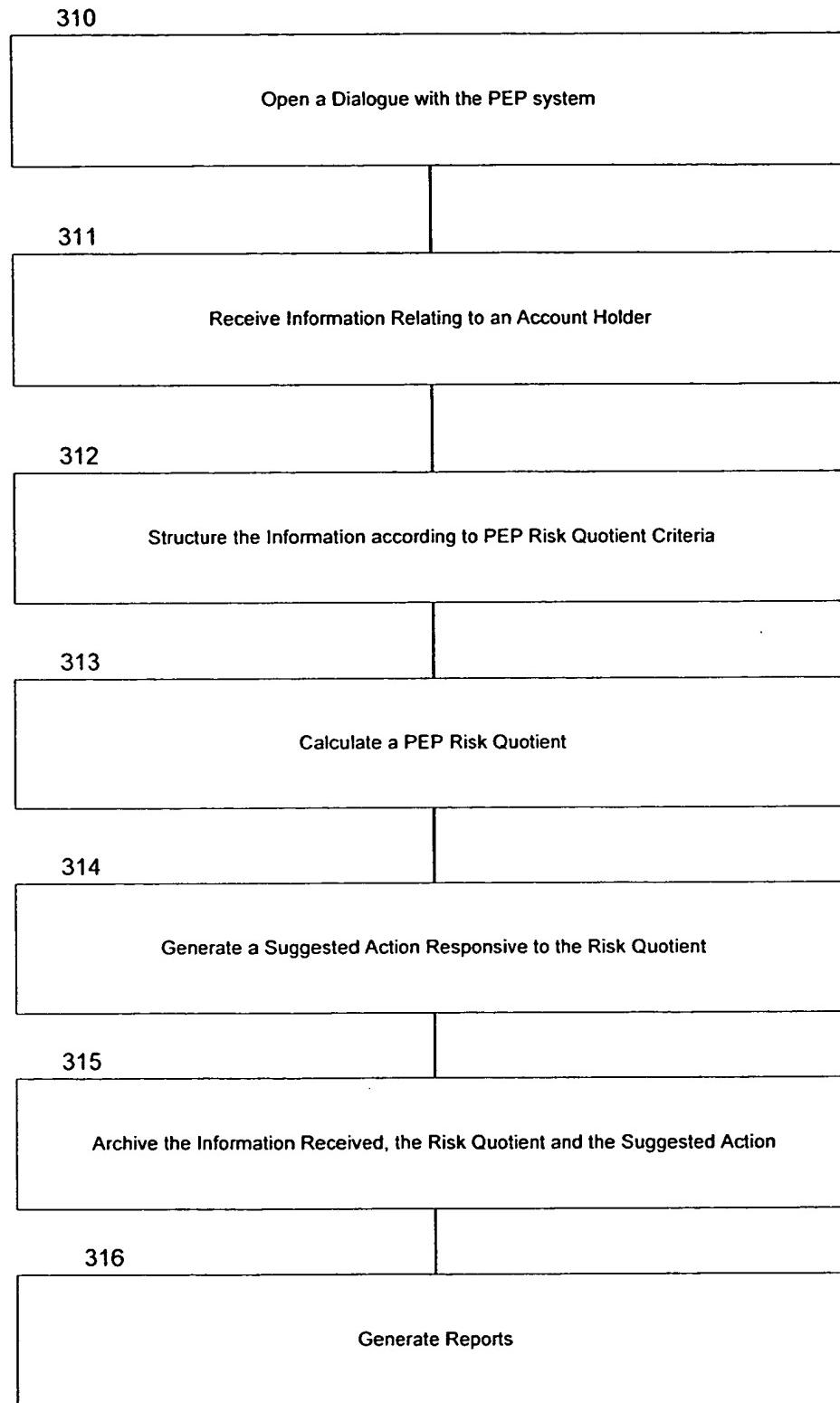


Fig. 3

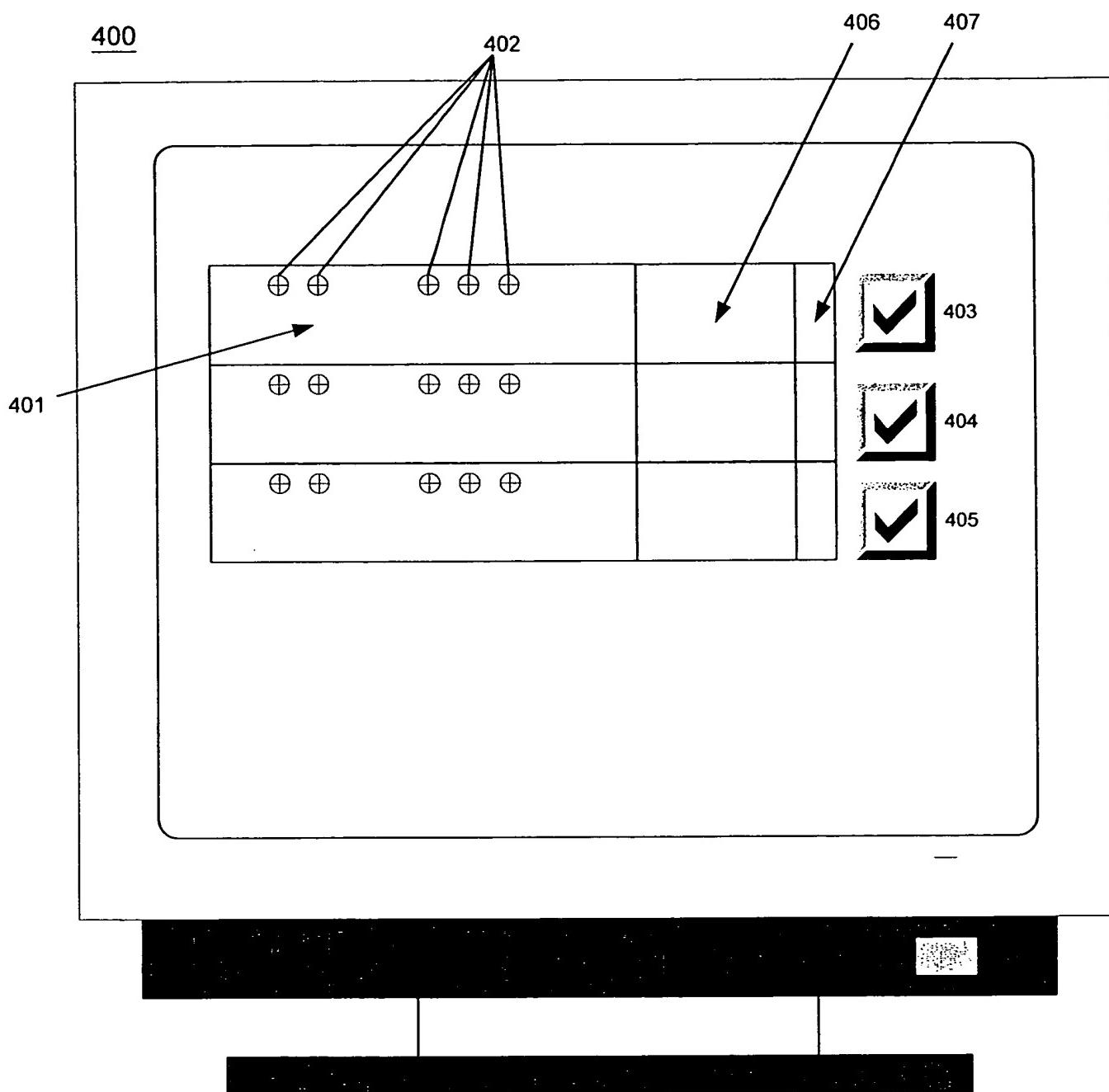


Fig. 4

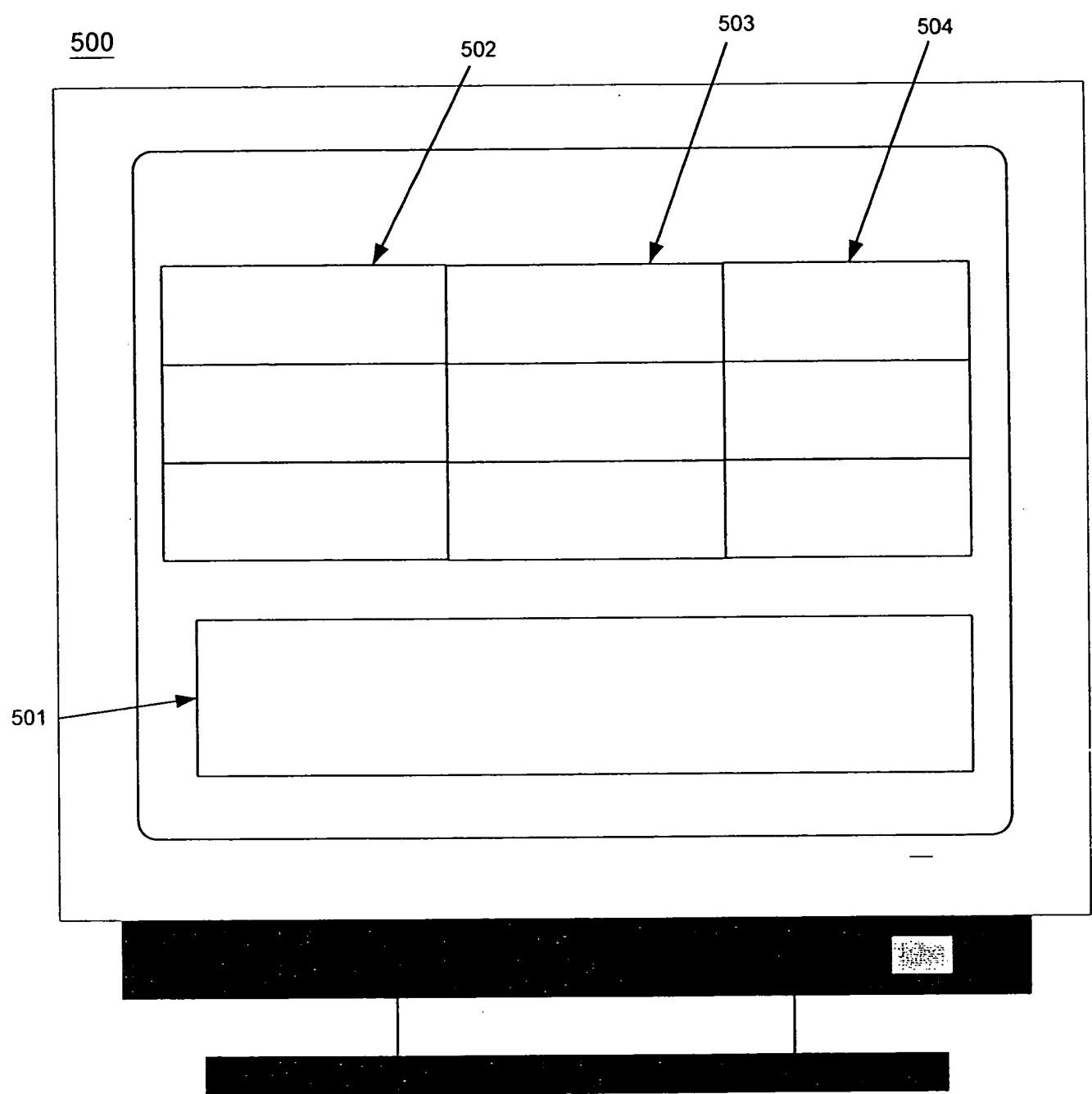


Fig. 5